

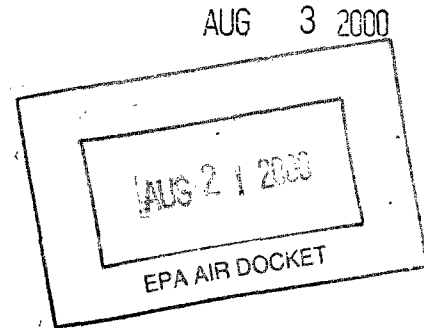


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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
Governor of Delaware  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Carper:



Thank you for your July 14, 2000 letter forwarding your recommendations on the designation status of areas in Delaware for the new ozone smog health standard. Making recommendations on geographic boundaries for the national air quality standard for smog is a critical step toward providing the citizens in your state with an important tool to make informed decisions about air pollution levels in their cities and hometowns. We intend to carefully review your recommendations and will work with you in determining final boundaries for your nonattainment areas.

Even though EPA's new smog standard is pending before the courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in its 1999 decision recognized that the designation process would continue. EPA is obligated under the Clean Air Act and the 1998 Transportation Equity Act to complete this process, which includes reviewing your recommendations and making ours later this year. We are proceeding with this action to protect public health while appealing other parts of the May 14, 1999 D.C. Circuit decision to the Supreme Court. This will ensure that citizens living in nonattainment areas will have cleaner air once the ongoing litigation is completed. Together we can move forward to bring cleaner, healthier air to the citizens in Delaware.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Mr. Shawn Garvin, Delaware Liaison Officer, at 215-814-2998.

Sincerely,

Bradley M. Campbell  
Regional Administrator

cc: Nicholas A. Di Pasquale, Secretary, Delaware Department of Natural Resources